Nalilu Sri Subrahmanya Swamy Temple, Kumbra, Puttur Taluk, Dakshina Kannada dist., Karnataka

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Introduction

Nalilu Sri Subrahmanya Swamy Temple is an ancient and revered Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Subrahmanya (Kartikeya/Murugan), the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

Known locally as "Nalilu" (meaning "four miles" in Tulu, possibly referring to its distance from nearby areas), this temple is unique for its tradition of offering pooja to an anthill (ಹುತ್ತ/ಹುತ್ತೆ - "Huttha" or "Hutha"), believed to be sacred and associated with serpent deities (Naga).

It is a significant pilgrimage site in the Tulu Nadu region, attracting devotees seeking blessings for protection from Sarpa Dosha, health, and prosperity.

The temple is nestled in a serene rural setting amid lush greenery, typical of Dakshina Kannada's coastal Karnataka landscape.

History and Legends

The exact origins of the temple are ancient, rooted in local folklore and Tuluva traditions.

The primary legend revolves around the sacred anthill in the sanctum, which is worshipped as a manifestation of Lord Subrahmanya combined with Naga (serpent) energy.

Devotees believe the anthill is a divine abode where Lord Subrahmanya resides in a subtle form, similar to serpent worship seen in other regional temples.

One popular story narrates that the deity manifested here miraculously, and offerings to the anthill bring relief from ailments, especially skin diseases and doshas related to serpents.

The temple has undergone renovations, including a recent Brahmakalashotsava and new mahadwara (grand entrance) inauguration, marking its growing prominence.

It is managed traditionally and has a dedicated Facebook page and official website for updates.

Deity and Sanctum

Main Deity: Lord Sri Subrahmanya Swamy, uniquely worshipped through a sacred anthill (Huttha Pooje).
Special rituals involve offering milk, turmeric, and other items directly to the anthill.

The sanctum is simple yet powerful, emphasizing the swayambhu (self-manifested) nature of the deity.

Architecture and Temple Layout

The temple follows traditional Kerala-influenced Dravidian style common in Tulu Nadu, with a recent grand entrance gate (Mahadwara) and connecting roads. Key features include:

- Gopuram and outer prakara
- Garbhagriha with the sacred anthill
- Sub-shrines and open spaces for rituals

Recent developments include improved infrastructure for devotees.

Festivals and Celebrations

Annual Festival (Jathra Mahotsava): Main celebration with rathotsava (chariot procession), cultural programs, and special poojas.

Subrahmanya Shashti: Observed with great devotion.

Brahmakalashotsava: Recently celebrated on a grand scale.

Other key events: Naga Panchami, Deepotsava, and local fairs attracting thousands.

Temple Timings and Pooja Details

Typical timings (may vary; confirm via official sources):
Morning: 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Evening: 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Special poojas: Huttha Pooje, Milk Abhisheka, Sarpa Samskara (for dosha nivarana).

How to Reach

Location: Kumbra/Kombaru village, near Puttur, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka.

By Road: Well-connected from Puttur (about 10-15 km), Mangalore (60 km), or Dharmasthala.

Nearest Railway: Puttur or Mangalore.
Nearest Airport: Mangalore International Airport (IXE).

Suggested YouTube Videos (to embed links or screenshots)

1.**Rare Temple with Anthill Pooja**: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcwzJcfsH7E (Kannada tour explaining the unique Huttha ritual)

2.**Recent Mahadwara Inauguration & Brahmakalash**:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpI-kmfgzHg (Event coverage)

Official Website: https://nalilusubramanya.in/ (for latest photos/updates)

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Sub-deities and Special Sevas

Sub-Deities

The temple is highly focused on the unique swayambhu form of Lord Subrahmanya as a sacred anthill (Valmeeka or Hutta – a serpent mound about 5-5.5 feet tall) in a natural cave-like sanctum.

There are no separate sub-deities or subsidiary shrines mentioned in available sources (including the official website).

The anthill itself is considered a mystical manifestation combining Lord Subrahmanya with Naga (serpent) energy.

Devotees often associate it with protection by Nagas, and live cobras have been sighted nearby occasionally, seen as a divine sign.

The primary worship is directed solely to this Valmeeka form.

Pooja/Seva Charges

Unfortunately, no specific charges, rates, or ticket prices for various poojas/sevas are listed on the official website (nalilusubramanya.in) or in other reliable sources.

The temple offers several special sevas, particularly for Sarpa Dosha nivarana and other remedies, including:

- Ashlesha Bali
- Sarpa Samskara
- Ranga Pooja
- Kartika Pooja
- Naga Tambila
- Collective Satyanarayana Pooja
- Sevas for Santanabhagya (child boon), Kankana Bhagya (marriage), Shani Dosha nivarana, etc.

Since it's a smaller, traditional temple (not as large as Kukke Subrahmanya), these are likely performed on request with nominal or donation-based contributions decided at the temple counter.

For accurate and current rates, it is suggested to contact the temple directly:

Official Website: https://nalilusubramanya.in/ (check for updates or contact form)

Facebook Page:

https://www.facebook.com/people/Nalilu-Subramanya-Temple/100064630844820/ (you can message them for details)

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Photos

YouTube Videos

Nalilu Subrahmanya Temple (11 min):

https://youtu.be/kcwzJcfsH7E?si=rrB_G21Y0DT_wMCG

Nalilu Brahmakashotsava (4 hrs 48 min);

https://www.youtube.com/live/FAmiBr1MYkU?si=bP3FBpkP0dzF9WPy

Brahmakashotsava - Special discussion - Suddi Bidugade (1 hr 39 min);

https://www.youtube.com/live/_HAbI0yQ1zo?si=Ljs6t8OzTdkTMXe7

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